14th December 1938]

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqués, dated 19th July 1938 and 16th November 1938, copies of which have been placed in the Council Library. The Government cannot furnish any further information than what has been set out therein."

Retrenchment in the Forest department.

* 111 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to refer to the answer to my starred question No. 11, dated 17th August 1938, and to state whether the Government have since come to a final decision in the matter?

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Two out of the six Conservators' circles have been abolished. Six posts in the Madras Forest Service have been retrenched; the clerical establishments in the two circle officers have also been abolished and the question of further reductions in the subordinate executive and ministerial staff is engaging the attention of Government. The Government expect to be in a position shortly to announce the reduction effected in the cadre of the Indian Forest Service."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know what are the six posts that have been abolished? "

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" I have already answered that they are all Madras Forest Service men.

SRI A. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to also print the question with reference to which this question is asked at least in future? "

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" The matter is entirely in the hands of the Hon. the President."

Measures for the reformation of prisoners.

* 112 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Courts and Prisons be pleased to state what measures Government have decided to take or contemplate adopting for the reformation of prisoners—

(*a*) by improvement of character by moral and religious instruction;

(*b*) by affording facilities for literary and industrial education, the reading of newspapers, journals and books;

(*c*) by permitting the well-behaved an off day periodically to visit their homes;

[14th December 1938

(*d*) by rewards for good behaviour and success in examinations; and

(*e*) by reducing penalties, specially scourging?

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN (Minister Public Information) on behalf of the Hon. Sri K. Raman Menon:—" (*a*) Suitable provision exists in rule 284-C of the Madras Jail Manual, Part II, to which the hon. Member is referred. The Government have sanctioned the payment of conveyance allowance to honorary moral and religious lecturers in jails subject to certain conditions. They have also issued instructions that great care and discrimination should be exercised in the selection of persons to deliver moral and religious lectures.

" (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rules 284, 284-E and 402 of the Madras Jail Manual, Part II. The Government have recently issued instructions that one hour out of the interval allowed to prisoners for rest in the mornings should be utilized every day for reading to the prisoners from newspaper or good books.

" (*c*) The Government have decided not to take any action in this regard at present.

" (*d*) As rewards for good behaviour, convicts are awarded remission and gratuity, and appointed as convict officers. For success in examinations, certificates are given to the prisoners at the time of their discharge to enable them to find suitable employment.

" (*e*) The Government have certain proposals under consideration."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—" Is there any proposal to abolish scourging? "

THE HON. SRI S. RAMANATHAN:—" Yes, Sir."

Appointments to Indian States subjects in provincial service and provisions made for appointments to British Indian subjects in Indian States.

*113 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the orders of Government are for throwing open appointments in provincial service to subjects of Indian States contiguous to or within the limits of this Province and on what *raison d'etre*; and

(*b*) what guarantees exist for reciprocity on the part of the favoured States in regard to British Indian subjects of this Province being appointed in their State services?